

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 02263 210617Z

45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 SY-10 DRC-01 RSC-01 /047 W

----- 114370

R 210446Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1898

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP VS

SUBJ: DEPSEC VISIT

REFS: A. STATE 031364 B. SAIGON 1637

1. THE AMBASSADOR AND MRS MARTIN HAD THOUGHT, GIVEN THE INTENSITY OF THE PRE-SAIGON TRIP SCHEDULE, IT MIGHT BE AN ACT OF "GRACE AND FAVOR" TO PERMIT MRS RUSH TO HAVE FULL FREEDOM OF CHOICE WHEN SHE ARRIVED SAIGON - TO REST IF SHE SO DESIRED - OR WORK IN AS MANY THINGS AS SHE CHOSE. THEY BOTH HAVE A PERSONAL FONDNESS AND ADMIRATION FOR JANE RUSH, AND WANTED HER STAY IN SAIGON TO BE A PLEASANT ONE.

2. THEREFORE, WITH THE PARTICULAR INTENTION OF BY-PASSING THE SEVENTH FLOOR JUNIOR STAFF MEMBERS, WHO SOMEHOW THINK THEY HAVE FAILED UNLESS THEY PROGRAM EVERY SECOND OF THE PRINCIPAL'S TIME, THE AMBASSADOR HAD PERSONALLY WRITTEN PARA 1E, REF B. QUOTE. UNLESS MRS RUSH HAS SPECIFIC DESIRES, NOTHING WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR HER. SHOPPING AND SIGHTSEEING CAN BE ARRANGED AS SHE MAY DESIRE ON ARRIVAL. UNQUOTE.

3. CHOICES WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO MRS RUSH ON ARRIVAL FOR AFTERNOON OF MARCH 6 AND MORNING OF MARCH 7:

A. VISIT TO AN LAC ORPHANAGE (TEN MINUTE DRIVE FROM RESIDENCE). ORPHANGE IS PRIVATELY RUN WITH NO RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION. IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1954. THE DIRECTOR IS MRS VU THI NGAI. THERE ARE AROUND 300 CHILDREN (23 ARE RACIALLY

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 02263 210617Z

MIXED) WITH A STAFF OF 30. HEALTH SERVICES ARE PROVIDED.

EDUCATION IS PROVIDED FOR SOME CHILDREN AND SOME ARE GOING TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS. THE ORPHANGE RECEIVED PL 480 COMMODITIES THROUGH CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES AND MILK FROM CARE.

B. VISIT TO BARSKY CLINIC (ABOUT A TWENTY MINUTE DRIVE FROM RESIDENCE). RUN BY CHILDREN'S MEDICAL RELIEF INTERNATIONAL IN NEW YORK. IT IS A PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGICAL CENTER WHICH RENDERS ORTHOPEDIC REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR BADLY INJURED CHILDREN. THERE IS A WELL TRAINED LOCAL STAFF. IT IS WELL SUPPORTED FINANCIALLY AND IS PARTIALLY SUPPORTED BY USAID.

C. SHDVHING IN SAIGON.(\$

\$2 TRIP TO TAY NINH CITY, FORTY-FIVE MINUTES BY HELICOPTER OR TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES BY TWO-ENGINE VOLPAR AIRCRAFT. TAY NINH IS THE SITE OF THE CAO DAI HOLY SEE. CAO DAI RELIGION IS A PURELY VIETNAMESE SECT FOUNDED IN 1926 AND IS AN ECLECTIC COMBINATION OF ELEMENTS OF ORIENTAL RELIGIONS, CHRISTIANITY AND 19TH CENTURY EUROPEAN HUMANISM. (AMONG ITS SAINTS ARE INCLUDED JESUS CHRIST, MOSES, AND VICTOR HUGO.) THE HOLY SEE AND ITS GROUNDS ARE INTERESTING AND THE ARCHITECTURAL CREATION CERTAINLY UNUSUAL. ENGLISH SPEAKING GUIDES GIVE EXCELLENT TOURS FILLED WITH GENERAL BACKGROUND ON THE DOCTRINE AND SYMBOLISM OF THE CAO DAI CHURCH.

E. VISIT TO PHU KHUONG, CAPITAL OF BINH DUONG PROVINCE (FORTY MINUTES BY VEHICLE) WHERE TWO OF THE LEADING VIETNAMESE PRODUCERS OF LACQUERWARE HAVE THEIR FACTORIES AND DISPLAY ROOMS, THANH LE AND TRAN HA.

F. TEA OR COFFEE WITH SELECTED LADIES FROM THE SAIGON AREA.

G. SHOPPING OR SIGHTSEEING IN SAIGON AREA.

H. NOTHING, IF SHE SO DESIRED.

4. MRS RUSH WILL BE INVITED TO DINNER HOSTED BY GVN ON MARCH 6. SHE WILL NOT ACCOMPANY THE DEPSEC ON OFFICIAL CALLS.

5. IF PASSION TO "BUTTON IT ALL UP NOW" CAN BE RESISTED, A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SAIGON 02263 210617Z

TELEPHONE CALL FROM BANGKOK ON FINAL CHOICE WILL BE PERFECTLY SATISFACTORY, AND ALLOW MRS RUSH TO MAKE DECISION THEN. MARTIN

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NNN

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